THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to construct new airports at pilgrim centres at present. The policy of the Government is to retain the name of the city in the case of domestic airports to the extent possible.

Expansion of Air Services from Bhubaneswar

3253. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aware the Bhubaneswar is an important religious and tourist-cum-business centre of Orissa;

(b) whether Government are also aware that it is a Regional Software Centre where inputs are derived from Bangalore and other software centres of the country;

(c) whether lack of adequate airlinks with these centres in the main impediment in its efforts for development; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to provide air-link between Bhubaneswar and Bangalore and also with other important software centres of the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Bhubaneswar is presently linked to Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Vizag and Raipur by regular Indian Airlines/Alliance air services. Indian Airlines has no plans to air link Bhubaneswar with Bangalore. However, same day connection is available on four days of the week from Bhubaneswar to Bangalore *via* Chennai. In the return direction, same day connection is available from Bangalore to Bhubaneswar *via* Kolkata on four days of the week. In the summer schedule effective from 30.03.2003, Alliance Air has increased the frequency of Hyderabad-Bhubaneswar-Kolkata services from three to four days per week.

Upgradation of Airports in Tripura

3254. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have decided to take in regard to upgradation of the airports in Kamalpur, Kailashahar and Dharmanagar in Tripura;